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Borough of Louth



Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

FOR

The Year 1957

T. E. WIGGEN AND SON, LTD.
THE PRINTERIES
LOUTH

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BOROUGH OF LOUTH

1957—58.

Chairman of the Council :

MAYOR

Councillor W. Patchett, J.P.

DEPUTY MAYOR

Alderman A. E. MAXEY, J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Alderman W. R. Burr

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor N. J. Nicholson

Alderman E. W. Macdonald

Alderman J. H. Starsmore

Councillor R. D. Charles

Councillor R. M. Cross

Alderman B. G. Gibson

Councillor Miss A. E. Hardy

Councillor A. McNeaney

Councillor R. Morton

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman :

Alderman J. H. Starsmore

Vice-Chairman :

Councillor Miss A. E. Hardy

Alderman A. E. Maxey

Councillor R. H. Brackenbury

Councillor R. D. Charles

Councillor W. A. Dann

Councillor C. W. Dunham

Councillor C. Jackson

Councillor H. E. Parratt

Councillor R. Wilkinson

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the Borough of Louth.

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1957 on the health and the environmental services of the Borough.

So far as the statistics reflect the standard of the health and environmental services there is every reason to regard these as most satisfactory, as may be seen from the following summary, which allows comparison to be made of (a) the local figures for 1957 with (b) those for England and Wales for 1957 and (c) the local ones for 1956.

	(a)	(b)	(c)
Standardised Birth Rate	16.6	16.1	15.9
Standardised Death Rate	8.1	11.5	11.5
Still Birth Rate	10.7	22.7	33.1
Infant Death Rate	27.0	23.1	28.6

greatest The actual number of births and deaths for the year was 185 and 117 respectively, compared with 175 and 156 for the previous year. The decrease in the number of deaths, however, affected the age groups under 65 years only in slight degree so that the reduction of numbers happened in the diseases associated with old age.

Apart from the measles epidemic, which was part of the national outbreak, the notification of other infections was negligible. As stated, in the remarks under this heading, it is now generally accepted that the time has arrived for a review of the list of notifiable diseases with the object of considering the exclusion of infections such as measles and whooping cough which are already at, and sometimes past, the acute infectious phase by the time notifications are received. Such change would effect much saving of time and money spent in pursuit of an almost useless purpose.

It is hoped the decline shown in the numbers immunised against diphtheria and whooping cough and vaccinated against small pox will only be temporary pending the initial clamour for poliomyelitis vaccination being satisfied. It would be a serious matter if the claims of this newer and much publicised addition to the field of prevention resulted in lessening of attention to the war against other diseases, which would be likely to renew their attack if vigilance were allowed to relax. It is probable, however, that these matters will fall normally into place again when the preliminary programme of poliomyelitis vaccination is completed.

On the environmental side, the appointment of an additional public health inspector allowed wider and more detailed attention

being paid to the services controlled by the Council and the other obligations which required to be met.

The water samples from the public supply were consistently of grade 1 bacteriological standard, and it is satisfactory to know at the time of writing that the scheme of filtration is again being considered with the hope of materialisation. The completion of this much needed provision would confound the wag who remarked "It is nice to know it is clean dirt I am drinking". All the private supplies were investigated and practical attention was given to these as conditions required.

In the absence of Council house building, slum clearance matters were concerned only with the administrative routine and the evacuation of houses in the confirmed areas when suitable casual vacancies occurred in Council dwellings. At the year's end, two areas had almost been vacated, which opened up the pleasing prospect of their being cleared to provide the first building sites for slum clearance needs. Unfortunately, out of the clearance areas already proposed, or likely to be dealt with at a later period, there are only three or four which can be regarded as suitable sites for re-housing purposes. This immediately suggests the need for earmarking these specially for housing priorities to help to meet the needs of the aged uprooted from central areas in the town; because, for the majority of persons displaced, it is akin to banishment to remove them to housing estates even a mile away from the town centre where they are cut off from their accustomed haunts and cronies and far removed from the doctors' surgeries, and perhaps from their places of worship. Compared with these factors, æsthetic considerations of the environment count not at all.

The public health inspectors deserve to be congratulated on the results achieved during the year in matters concerned with food hygiene. A reference to the appropriate heading in this report will show in summary the amount of work accomplished by getting all but a few premises to conform to the structural and equipments requirements of the Food Hygiene Regulations. This work, which included some large scale alteration schemes, demanded much time and attention to speed up the completion. Allied to this, were the routine inspections made for general supervisory purposes, the arduous duties of meat inspection, and the taking of samples for laboratory examination, all of which added up to a very successful year's working which may be observed in the improved standard of the local food shops and also from the laboratory report on the samples submitted.

I am pleased to have this yearly opportunity of recording my thanks to Mr. Brocklebank for being at all times helpful and most reliable. One can always rest assured that any duty he undertakes will be carried out promptly and efficiently. I am further indebted to him for supplying me with information about

the work in his department and for his helpful reports which I have used freely in compiling parts of this report. I am grateful also for the valued assistance given by all the other officers of the Council and for the co-operation and encouragement graciously accorded me by the Chairman and the members of the Public Health Committee.

W. J. KERRIGAN,
Medical Officer of Health

Louth ; September, 1958

★ ★ ★ ★

BOROUGH OF LOUTH

Public Health Officers :

Medical Officer of Health :

W. J. KERRIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., L.M., D.P.H.

Senior Public Health Inspector, Meat, Milk and Dairies Inspector :

J. A. H. BROCKLEBANK, M.I.S.A., M.R., San.I.

Deputy Public Health Inspector :

JOHN T. DALLIMORE, M.R. San.I. (Appointed 1st Jan. 1957)

Surveyor :

J. C. BARBER, A.M., Inst.M.&CyE.

SECTION A

Social Conditions and General Statistics.

Area of Borough in Acres	...	...	...	2,812
Registrar General's estimated mid year Home Population	11,470			
Density per acre	...	...	...	4.08
Number of inhabited houses at the end of 1957	...			3,813
Rateable Value of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	£75,954
Estimated Product of Penny Rate	...	...	...	£520

VITAL STATISTICS

(Note—Figures in brackets show corresponding rates for England and Wales).

Births

(a)	LIVE		Total	Male	Female
	Legitimate	...	175	90	85
	Illegitimate	...	10	3	7
			185	93	92

(b) STILL			
Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
	2	—	2

Actual Live Birth Rate per 1,000 of estimated population	16.13
Standarised birth rate for comparative purposes (Comparability factor 1.03)	16.6 (16.1)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population	0.17 (0.37)
Still birth rate per 1,000 of Live and Still Births	10.7 (22.5)

Deaths	Total	Male	Female
	117	55	62
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated population			10.2
Standarised death rate for comparative purposes (Comparability factor 0.79)		8.1	(11.5)
Deaths from maternal causes		NIL	
Deaths from infectious diseases		NIL	

Deaths of Infants under 12 months old :

	Cases	Male	Female
(a) Legitimate	4	2	2
Illegitimate	1	—	1
(b) Deaths of Infants under 4 weeks old :—			
Legitiimate	2	2	—
Illegitmate	—	—	—

Infants Deaths, Causes and ages at death

	Male	Female
Prematurity and Atelectasis	2 hours	—
” ” ” ” ”	3 days	—
Asphyxia due to inhalation of vomitus	—	10 weeks
Broncho pneumonia due to inhalation of vomitus	—	8 months
Pulmonary respiratory infection	—	3 months

Death Rate of Infants per 1,000 related live births	27.0 (23.1)
---	-------------

Ages at Death.

Ages in Years	0/1	1/5	5/15	15/25	25/35	35/45	45/55	55/65	65/75	75/85	85+	Total
Deaths	5	1	—	1	—	5	8	10	26	40	21	=117

Deaths from Malignant Neoplasms.

Ages in Years	Under 40	40/45	45/50	50/55	55/60	60/65	65/70	70/75	75+	Total
Cases	—	1	—	2	3	—	5	3	5	=19

Anatomical Sites of Malignant Neoplasms.

	Male	Female
Stomach	1	2
Lung, bronchus	3	—
Breast	—	3
Uterus	—	1
Other sites	4	5
	—	—
	8	11
	—	—

Causes of Death	Males	Females	+
1. Tuberculosis of Respiratory System	—	—	(2)
2. Tuberculosis of other	—	—	(—)
3. Whooping Cough	—	—	(1)
3. Malignant neoplasm—Stomach ...	1	2	(3)
5. Malignant neoplasm—Lung, Bronchus	3	—	(3)
6. Malignant neoplasm—Breast ...	—	3	(2)
7. Malignant neoplasm—uterus ...	—	1	(—)
8. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	4	5	(9)
9. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	5	11	(16)
10. Coronary disease, angina ...	8	9	(19)
11. Other heart disease ...	12	4	(29)
12. Other circulatory disease ...	3	9	(22)
13. Influenza ...	3	—	(—)
14. Pneumonia ...	2	1	(8)
15. Bronchitis ...	5	—	(9)
16. Other diseases of respiratory system	1	1	(2)
17. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum.	1	1	(2)
18. Nephritis and nephrosis	—	2	(2)
19. Other defined and ill defined diseases	6	10	(18)
20. Accidents other then motor vehicular	1	3	(4)
	55	62	

(+) The figures in parenthesis refer to those corresponding of the previous year.

SECTION B

General Provisions of Health Services in the Area Laboratory Facilities

Adequate and satisfactory. Water and sundry samples of food products, as well as specimens relating to infectious disease investigation, totalling 245, were expeditiously dealt with by the branch of the Public Health Laboratory Service at Lincoln. It is a pleasure to express thanks for the accustomed help provided by this free service towards meeting the essential laboratory needs in our efforts to prevent and control infectious disease.

Treatment Centres and Clinics

Below are given details of the services provided by the Lindsey County Council and the Regional Hospital Board towards meeting local needs in the preventive and treatment branches of medicine.

In addition to the clinic provisions, the County Council controls the services in the area relating to school health, maternity and child welfare, mental health, vaccination and immunisation, ambulances, as well as the duties connected with health visiting, home nursing, home midwifery, and home helps.

A—Clinics at the County Council's premises 32, Queen Street, Louth.

School Children :

Weekly Children : Wednesdays 2 to 4 p.m.

Child Welfare :

- (1) Child Welfare : Tuesdays (all) 2 to 4 p.m.
- (2) Toddlers : Wednesdays (2nd & 4th) 2 to 4 p.m.
- (3) Diphtheria Immunisation : Tuesdays (2nd & 4th) 2 p.m.

Dental : By appointment.

Rheumatic and Heart Clinic by appointment, and also are Diphtheria Immunisation (school children) and Ultra Violet Light Sessions.

B—At the local hospitals.

County Hospital, Louth Out Patient Clinics

Ophthalmology—Monday 10 a.m.
Ear, Nose and Throat—Monday 2 p.m.
Ante Natal—Monday 2-30 p.m.
Psychiatry—Tuesdays 10 a.m.
Dental—Monday 3 p.m.
Surgical—Tuesday 2-30 p.m. and
Friday 2-30 p.m.
Genito Urinary—Monday 11-30 a.m.
Chest—Wednesday 9 a.m.

Louth & District Hospital Out Patient Clinics

—
—
—
—
—
Monday 2-30 p.m. and
Thursday 10-30 a.m.

Radiotherapy—Alt. Thursdays 11 a.m.	—
Gynæcology—Thursdays 2 p.m.	—
Venereology—Thursdays 2 p.m.	—
Medical—Thursday 10 a.m. and Friday 10 a.m.	—
Orthopædic—Wednesday—9-30 a.m. and Friday, 9-30 a.m.	—
Dermatology—Friday 2 p.m.	—
Pædiatric—Wednesday 2 p.m.	—
School Eye Clinic—1st and 3rd Tuesday 10 a.m.	—

Prevalence of and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

Infectious Diseases other than Tuberculosis during 1957

Disease	Cases Notified	Case rates per 1,000 of estimated population	
Scarlet Fever	1	0.09	(0.65)
Measles	641	55.89	(11.9)
Whooping Cough	2	0.17	(1.9)
Pneumonia	4	0.35	(0.73)
Poliomyelitis (Paralytic)	1	0.09	(0.07)
„ Non Paralytic	—	—	(0.037)
Puerperal Pyrexia	7	+37.48	(15.99)
Total	656	+per 1,000 total (Live and still) Births	

The major epidemic of measles was the only incident of note during the year, and so far as the number of notifications represented the extent of the outbreak, their value otherwise as a means of limiting the spread of infection was negligible. The epidemic, which involved the two middle quarters of the year, ran a mild course and took its toll of the non-immunes with out any resulting deaths. Unless circumstances affecting the disease alter, it would seem the time has arrived to review the necessity for including measles under the list of notifiable diseases, when the doubtful statistical value appears the only merit of the proceedings. This has to be weighed against the paralysis that can occur in the working routine of a small office by having to deal with avalanches of such notifications, which require to be recorded, copied, and later listed in vexacious detail for accountancy purposes.

Poking through the statistics of the local measles outbreak we glean that the disease affected only 15 children under the age of one year ; and in the age groups 1 to 4 years, 5 to 9 years, and the ten and over, the numbers were respectively 227, 387, and 15

The other notifications call for no comment ; suffice to mention that all the cases of puerperal pyrexia were hospital notifications, of whom none was a Borough resident. Only two of the pneumonia cases were local residents.

**Prophylaxis measures against Diphtheria,
Whooping Cough, and Smallpox.**

**Diphtheria, Whooping Cough Immunisation and Vaccination
against Smallpox.**

(a) Diphtheria Immunisation.

Under 5 Years	5-14 years	Booster Doses
5 (9)	12 (23)	99 (220)

(b) Whooping Cough Immunisation (under 5 years).

Under One	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
— (—)	— (—)	— (—)	1 (—)	— (1)	1 (!)

**(c) Combined Diphtheria & Whooping Cough Immunisations
(Under five years)**

Under one	One	Two	Three	Four	Total
50 (86)	22 (37)	1 (2)	2 (5)	1 (1)	76 (131)

(d) Anti Smallpox

Ages in years	0/1	1/4	5/14	15+	Total
(a) Primary Vaccinations	32 (52)	7 (7)	6 (6)	12 (9)	57(74)
(b) Re-vaccinations	— (—)	— (1)	—(—)	7 (7)	9 (8)

From the above returns, kindly supplied by Dr. C. D. Cormac, County Medical Officer, it will be seen there was a serious decline in the number of prophylactic treatments given against diphtheria, whooping cough and small pox compared with the previous year, the figures for which are given in parentheses. Thus in the under 5 year age group, the primary treatments for diphthera were 81 compared with 140 ; whooping cough vaccinations were 77 compared with 132 and primary small-pox vaccinations 57 against 74. The decline is even more marked in the numbers given booster shots against diphtheria. This general fall seems to result from the national emphasis on the drive for poliomyelitis vaccination, which upset the routine programme of preventive

inoculations, not only for parents, but also in the case of the medical staff. This may also have been associated with the fact that the County Council, in accordance with accepted medical opinion, decided to restrict the use of the combined forms of vaccine to the first and last quarters of the year, and it will be seen from the foregoing returns that the combined vaccine was used as the general choice for gaining the primary protection against diphtheria and whooping cough.

Vaccinations against Poliomyelitis.

The poliomyelitis vaccination programme, which was introduced the previous year, continued at a brisker rate as the vaccine became available. The ages eligible for vaccination were gradually extended during the year by the Ministry to include children from 6 months to 15 years old. Vaccination sessions were carried out at the Clinic and at schools, while the majority of general practitioners took part in the scheme by dealing with the children whose parents desired this preference.

Vaccination against Tuberculosis.

Towards the end of the year the approved scheme was introduced for the tuberculin skin testing of children between the ages of 13 and 14 years, whose parents had given consent to the procedure and to the vaccination of the age group found to be negative reactors. The preliminary testing and subsequent vaccination, as required, were done at the grammar and secondary modern schools for the consenting children in the age group.

Tuberculosis : New Cases and Mortality during 1957

Age period (years)			New Cases				Deaths			
			Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
			M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	...	...						
1	...	...						
5	...	...						
15	...	...	1	1						
25	...	...			1					
35	...	...						
45	...	...	1	2						
55	...	...	1							
65+	...	...						
Totals			3	3	1	—	—	—	—	—

The notifications were three less than the previous year, and no deaths resulted from the disease compared with two recorded in 1956.

Medical Inspection of School Children in the Borough Schools

The County Medical Officer kindly gave consent for the inclusion of the following summary of medical inspection of children attending the Borough schools, showing the classification of the nutritional standards and the defects found.

(a) Total Number of Children examined in Routine Groups

	General Condition		
	Total	Satisfactory	Unsatisfactory
Entrants	182	173	9
2nd Age Groups	192	190	2
Leavers	266	264	2
Total Prescribed Groups	640	627	13
„ Supervisory Examtns	433		
„ Special Examtns	20		
„ Examinations	1093		

(b) Summary of Defects (Periodic Inspections only)

Defect	Requiring Treatment	Requiring Observation
Eyes		
(a) Defective Vision ...	24	32
(b) Squint (wearing glasses)	—	10
(c) Other ...	1	1
Ears. (Hearing) ...	—	3
Nose and Throat ...	4	11
Speech ...	—	4
Lymphatic Glands ...	—	1
Heart ...	—	5
Lungs ...	1	13
Developmental ...	1	—
Orthopaedic ...	1	1
Psychological		
(a) Development ...	3	1
(b) Stability ...	1	1
Totals	36	83

Removal of Persons in need of care and attention. Section 47(1) National Assistance Act, 1948.

Thankfully, one records that it was found unnecessary to apply for the appropriate Court order to effect the removal of

anyone during the year under these powers. Cases referred were otherwise dealt with in co-operation with the local health visitor and Welfare Officer.

SECTION C

Sanitary Circumstances in the area

Water Supplies

All 53 samples of the water from the public supply, taken in various areas of the district at weekly intervals, were found bacteriologically sterile. In this respect, the supply was of grade 1 standard and eminently safe for drinking and domestic use, though it was not easy to convince many members of the public that this was so, when a liquid of brown opacity could unexpectedly gush from the taps at irregular intervals under certain conditions which caused disturbance of the iron oxide deposit. Regular checks were also made by sample taking of the supply at the different stages before entry to the mains ; and the estimation of the free chlorine was always done at the time samples were taken from the reservoir and the district points.

During the year, the very defective structure, nominally providing protective cover for the storage wells, was removed, and the sides protected as far as possible against the entry of surface water from the higher land adjoining. This arrangement though not ideal, was an improvement pending a decision about the future of the works generally.

At a later period in the year it was found necessary to augment the town supply by using the water from the Raithby site. Steps were also taken to seal off the pipe remaining connected to the old polluted Welton source, which, though no longer required or being used, constituted an unnecessary risk.

A new bore was in process of being sunk at Hubbards Hills site to augment the existing supplies, which, on completion, was expected to bring the total yield up to $2\frac{1}{4}$ million gallons per day. This figure was the estimated requirement for local needs and for those areas of the Louth and Horncastle Rural Districts being serviced from these sources.

There were 15 houses, comprising group and individual properties, dependent wholly on private supplies at the end of the year. Samples were taken from these, and as the result of unsatisfactory tests of the supply to a group of four cottages, a reservoir with drip feed chlorination was installed to overcome the source contamination. In all other cases, the supplies were found satisfactory except those of two individual houses where no practical solution could be devised other than the obvious one of ensuring safety by boiling the drinking water.

Swimming Baths.

This amenity functioned without unusual incident during its seasonal operation. The bacteriological reports on nine sample examinations at weekly intervals confirmed the attention given to the chlorination dosage of the bath water, which was also subject to frequent checks by chlorinometer readings.

The Council agreed to increase and improve the dressing room accommodation at the baths, making provision at the same time for better arrangement of the rooms according to the sexes. The necessary work was to be completed before the next season.

Closets.

There were no conversions of dry systems during the year, which left the number of houses with pail closets at 30, and 13 with privy vaults.

Cesspools and Septic Tanks.

Number emptied and cleaned	...	...	1
Number abolished	...	...	Nil

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal.

Mr. Barber, Borough Surveyor, reported briefly as follows :—

“Considerable progress was made in ascertaining the quantities of infiltration water into the sewers for which small schemes were in preparation for this elimination. A survey of the outfall was completed, levels taken, and the size of the outfall provisionally agreed. Work on the amendments necessary at the sewage disposal works was in progress.”

House Refuse.

Weekly collection was maintained at the satisfactory level of other years for households, shops and institutions. The disposal of the refuse was by controlled tipping at the London Road site and no difficulties were reported.

Disinfection and disinfestation of rooms and contents.

Number of premises and bedding disinfected	6
Number of premises disinfested	2

Nuisances

Abated by informal action	61
Abated by Statutory Notice	1
Details of the number abated during the year :—	
Refuse	14
Foul ditches, ponds and stagnant water	—
Drainage	32
Poultry and Animals	1
Dangerous premises	6
Miscellaneous	9

Atmospheric pollution

Nuisances from factory chimneys	1
Abated	1

Rodent Control

It was reported that 781 premises were inspected for the presence of rats and mice, of which number 232 were found infested and treated. Apart from the systematic block surveys and the monthly special visits to potential harbourage of the slaughterhouse and piggery type, the rodent operative visited households and premises on receipt of complaints. The senior public health inspector reported also about an intensive investigation during the year into a noticeable increase in rat infestation, the seat of which trouble was traced to old standing defects in the drain and sewer systems. Eleven such sources were located and remedied, with results which subsequently showed clearance of infestation at these points. The advice of the assistant public health inspector was found valuable in this investigation as he had special experience in dealing with this type of infestation.

Shops Act 1950

Inspections	91
Contraventions remedied	2

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

1. Inspections.

Premises	No. on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Prosecutions
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6, are to be enforced by Local Authorities	12	7	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	103	62	6	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises)	—	—	—	—
Total	115	69	6	—

2. Defects found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred	
			To HM Inspector	By HM Inspector
Unsuitable or defective Sanitary Conveniences:-	6	3	—	4
Total	6	3	—	4

3. Outwork.

Nature of work	No. of outworkers from returns submitted	Contraventions
Nil	Nil	Nil

SECTION D.

Housing

Total number of new houses erected during the year.	19
(1) By the Local Authority	Nil
(2) By other Local Authorities	Nil
(3) By other bodies or persons	19

(1) Inspection of Dwelling houses during the year.

(a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	93
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	372

(2) Remedy of defects during the year without service of Formal notices

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	17
---	----

(3) Housing Repairs and Rents Acts 1954-57

Number of certificates of disrepair issued	5
	17

(4) Action under Statutory Powers during the year

(a) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :—			
(a)	By owners	...	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Housing Acts

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	...	2
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :-			
(a)	By Owners	...	...	2
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	Nil

(5) Slum Clearance - proceedings under the Housing Acts.

Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	1
Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	2
Number of dwelling-houses, or parts, subject to Closing Orders	4
Number of dwelling-houses on which Demolition Orders are operative which are still occupied	1

Housing Acts—Overcrowding

(a)	(1)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	1
	(2)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	10
(b)	(1)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	1
	(2)	Number of families dwelling therein			2
	(3)	Number of persons dwelling therein			17

(7) Housing Act, 1949

(a)	Number of houses for which applications for grants have been received	...	(1957)	9
(b)	Number of houses subject to grant.		(1957)	9
	Total number of houses reconditioned by grant aid 31-7-1949 to 32-12-56			26

(8) Moveable Dwellings, Tents, Vans, etc.

(a)	Number of Site Licences	...	...	Nil
(b)	Number of individual Licences	...	..	10
(c)	Total number of caravans permitted under licences	...	...	10
(d)	Number of inspections during the year :—			
	(1) Sites	...	...	Nil
	(2) Dwellings	...	...	24
(e)	Number of contraventions remedied		...	2

Housing.

In connexion with housing defects and slum clearance, 372 visits were made in dealing with 93 dwellings requiring attention, and only in two cases had formal notices to be served before defects were remedied by the owners.

The Rents Act, which came into operation during the year, had less repercussion than was anticipated. Only five certificates of disrepair were issued and undertakings were given by the owners in all cases to carry out the necessary work. It would seem the great majority of tenants appreciated the fact that the previous rentals did not allow the landlords to keep the properties in proper repair, so the prospect of securing improvement in the maintenance standard neutralised grievances about the new charges, which were probably also viewed favourably against the background of Council house rentals. The new rentals will give a much needed fillip to the speeding up of repairs to the type of property which seemed otherwise likely to become increasingly slum clearance liabilities.

Under the Housing Act 1949, grants for 9 houses were considered and made. This made a total of 35 cases of grant aid given since the Act came into operation, which seems an inexplicably small number of owners and landlords taking advantage of this means of modernising their property.

The Council considered representations made in respect of 30 houses in four clearance areas, and these joined the others, represented in previous years, in cold storage to await the withdrawal of the financial brake which will allow the resumption of house building. In the meantime, when suitable Council house accommodation became vacant, tenants of houses in the

confirmed clearance areas were absorbed, which resulted in 9 such families, comprising 16 persons, being moved during the year. The prospect of securing complete evacuation of the houses in one or two confirmed clearance areas, which were eminently suitable for re-development to meet slum clearance needs, became a near reality at the end of the year. This suggested the likelihood of the sites being used for the first building programme for slum clearance instead of going to "far away places" on the town outskirts. Someone has said that it is as much of an adventure for most old folks to move to a home a mile or two distant as it is for the young to emigrate, and I think the truth of the statement requires the maximum use being made of the small number of central sites likely to be suitable for rehousing purposes.

Four individual houses were represented as unfit, following which, one was demolished, one was made the subject of a Closing Order, and Undertakings were accepted in respect of the others.

SECTION E

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Food Hygiene Regulations 1955.

The following list shows the total number of food premises in the Borough under the several headings, and the figures in parenthesis denote the number of those where the full installation of equipment required under the above regulations was still outstanding at the end of year. It may be added that the delay in compliance in nearly all cases was due to unusual circumstances which, at the time, were in process of being rectified.

Description of premises.			Total	
(1)	Ice Cream Manufacture	...	...	1
(2)	Butchers	...	...	22
(3)	Catering Establishments	...	...	15
(4)	Fried Fish Shops	...	...	5
(5)	Wet Fish Shops	...	...	4
(6)	Bakehouses and Meat Product Factories			0 (2)
(7)	Greengrocers	...	...	8 (2)
(8)	Sweets, Confectionery and Ice Cream Retail			19 (2)
(9)	Baker and Confectioner Shops		...	9 (1)
(10)	Grocers and General	...	...	51 (2)
(11)	Poulterers	...	...	4 (3)
			Total	148 (12)

The senior public health inspector gave further information about the work done under this heading, which is shown in the following summary (a) of Structural provisions completed under the Food Hygiene Regulations (b) General.

(a)	Wash hand basins	...	...	...	32
	Sinks	...	...	...	13
	Hot water supplies	...	...	...	39
	Impervious table and bench tops	...	...	...	19
	First Aid boxes	...	...	...	6
(b)	Defective sanitary accommodation repaired				12
	Walls, floors, ceilings cleansed, repaired and decorated				44
	Ventilation improvements				2
	Refuse removed and Waste bin provided				10
	Defective drainage repaired				2
	Miscellaneous defects				15

The attention concerned with the implementation of the Food Hygiene Regulations, which shortage of staff affected the previous year, was speeded up to result, as has been mentioned, in all but a negligible number of premises having satisfactorily conformed to the structural and installation of equipment demands. Part of this work involved major schemes of structural alterations, which included the provision of complete new kitchen arrangements in a hotel and a cafe, as well as large scale alterations with appropriate new equipment at three other catering establishments; the overhaul of a bakery premises and the re-construction of storage facilities in two grocer shops. The supervision given this work together with general inspections of food premises required some 800 visits by the inspectors.

Sampling of Foodstuffs.

Milk

Satisfactory

(a)	Pasteurised	26
	T. T. non-pasteurised	10
	Sterilized	1
(b)	Biological Examinations	
	For Tubercle	6 Negative
	For Brucella	5 Negative & 1 positive
(c)	Fresh Cream	8 Samples

Ice Cream

Grade 1	34
Grade 2	3
Grade 3 & 4	Nil

Ice Lollies

7 Satisfactory

Watercress

Satisfactory	1
Unsatisfactory	1

Remarks.

All the above samples were of course concerned with the hygienic standard, except those tests for the efficiency of the pasteurisation procedure and the biological examinations of the milk samples. The latter were done in conjunction with the County scheme of supervision.

The distributors of milk comprised 29 vendors of sterilized, 7 of pasteurized, 2 of T.T. non-pasteurized, and non-designated nil. The sterilized milk was sold from retail shops for occasional use. One manufacturer was registered and 46 premises were licensed for the sale of ice cream.

Efforts were made to prevent the sale of watercress obtained from sources other than commercial grower concerns. One case was discovered when the collection was made in all innocence from a local natural source which was subject to gross pollution. Instructions were also given to traders about the general care required in dealing with this edible.

Meat Inspection.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned in whole or in part.

	Cattle excl'ding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed (if known)	1667	185	80	4700	6201
Number inspected	1667	185	80	4700	6201
(a) All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci					
Whole carcasses condemned	4	9	6	33	13
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	145	41	3	112	292
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with disease other than tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.3%	27%	11%	3.0%	4.9%
(b) Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	4	1	—	1
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	74	16	—	—	152
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4%	10%	1%	—	2.4%
(c) Cysticerci					
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	—	—	—	—	—
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	—	—	—	—
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—

The senior public health inspector pointed out the increase in the number of carcasses inspected, which in the case of cattle was 15% and for pigs 30% more than the previous year. The inspection of all carcasses was done in spite of the irregularity of the slaughtering hours, which required the inspectors visiting in the late evenings and on Saturday afternoons and Sunday mornings. Unfortunately, no foreseeable change was anticipated in these arrangements because of the shortage of a regular staff of slaughtermen and the consequent dependence on part time helpers, who were available only after hours of other employment. As the inspector remarked, this difficulty of finding full time staff tended to produce a lowering of standards of cleanliness and practice because the casual worker was not subject to the same degree of discipline on these matters.

The adoption of the Slaughterhouse Model Bye-laws by the Council as interim measures pending the expected fuller legislation, enabled some improvements being carried out. In the three largest slaughterhouses, a separate section was provided for emptying stomach and intestinal contents, which helped to reduce this danger of contamination of the carcass. The senior inspector stated that lack of space and the type of arrangement of the others made such provisions impracticable,

Condemnation of General Foodstuff.

The following foods were condemned as unfit, mainly because the canned variety showed evidence of being blown, and the other, by reason of damage in transit. In all these cases, the shopkeepers requested examination of the goods which, on condemnation, were buried in the tipping ground.

118lbs.	Bacon
110lbs,	Cheese
132 cans	Meat
168 „	Fruit
150 „	Vegetables
21 „	Soup
12 „	Fish
57 „	Milk

